

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-15 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07

TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 EUR-12 NEA-10 EA-12 /125 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7853

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD COMMODITIES: RUBBER: SCHEDULED WORKSHOP
AND PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONSULTATIONS, MAY 7-19.

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED NOTICE FROM UNCTAD SECGEN COREA REGARDING SCHEDULE FOR FIELD WORKSHOP AND CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONSULTATIONS ON NATURAL RUBBER TO BE HELD MAY 7-19 IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. CONSULTATIONS ARE BEING ORGANIZED BY UNCTAD IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL RUBBER PRODUCING COUNTRIES AS AGREED BY THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING ON NATURAL RUBBER. PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP IS TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH POLICY MAKERS ON VARIOUS OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON NATURAL RUBBER AND TO OBSERVE, IN SITU, RUBBER PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING. LAST THREE DAYS ARE TO BE DEVOTED TO AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE ELEMENTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON NATURAL RUBBER. SCHEDULE IS LISTED IN PARA 4.

2. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF RUBBER IN THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM AND THE COMMITMENT BY ALL GOVERN-
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MENTS TO SEEK TO NEGOTIATE A STABILIZATION AGREEMENT AT THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR NOV-DEC THIS YEAR, THE US SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE. CONSUMING COUNTRIES INTEND TO USE CONFERENCE AT END OF SECOND WEEK FOR EXTENSIVE, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF NEW PRODUCER DRAFT AGREEMENT AS PART OF PREPARATIONS FOR CONSUMER MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE AND JULY IN GENEVA. BASED ON COMMENTS MADE AT LAST

PREPARATORY MEETING, MISSION EXPECTS ALL EC COUNTRIES AND COMMISSION TO SEND DELEGATES. JAPAN IS CURRENTLY STUDYING COMPOSITION AND SIZE OF DELEGATION.

3. MISSION BELIEVES IT DESIRABLE THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS AGENCIES WHO HAVE SERVED ON US DELEGATIONS TO UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND WHO WILL BE PART OF NEGOTIATING TEAM BE INCLUDED IN US DELEGATION IF SCHEDULES AND FUNDS PERMIT. MISSION ALSO REQUESTS THAT MISSION COMMODITIES OFFICER BE INCLUDED ESPECIALLY SINCE HE SERVES AS CHAIRMAN AND SPOKESMAN FOR CONSUMER CAUCUS. HIS PARTICIPATION, AT LEAST IN FINAL WEEK'S ACTIVITIES, IS IMPORTANT TO HIS CARRYING OUT FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES IN PRESIDING OVER CONSUMER DRAFTING GROUP AND PRENEGOTIATION CONFERENCES.

4. PROPOSED PROGRAM:

7 MAY (SUNDAY): PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE IN BANGKOK. OVERNIGHT STAY IN BANGKOK.

8 MAY (MONDAY): GROUP TO LEAVE BY AIR FOR PHUKET, VISIT THAI TECHNICAL RUBBER (TTR) FACTORY. OVERNIGHT STAY IN PHUKET.

9 MAY (TUESDAY): GROUP TO VISIT RUBBER REPLANTING HOLDINGS AND RUBBER RESEARCH STATIONS. TOUR BY COACH. OVERNIGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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STAY IN HAT YAI.

10 MAY (WEDNESDAY): GROUP TO VISIT RUBBER RESEARCH CENTRE AT HAT YAI AND RELATED ACTIVITIES ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. OVERNIGHT STAY IN HAT YAI.

11 MAY (THURSDAY): GROUP TO LEAVE BY AIR FOR MEDAN VIA PENANG. OVERNIGHT STAY IN MEDAN.

12 MAY (FRIDAY): GROUP TO VISIT RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MEDAN. BRIEFING FOLLOWED BY A FIELD TRIP. OVERNIGHT STAY IN MEDAN.

13 MAY (SATURDAY): FIELD TRIP TO OBSERVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ON RUBBER. OVERNIGHT STAY IN MEDAN.

14 MAY (SUNDAY): GROUP TO LEAVE BY AIR FOR SINGAPORE. OVERNIGHT STAY IN SINGAPORE.

15 MAY (MONDAY): MEETING WITH RELEVANT OFFICIALS IN SINGAPORE. OVERNIGHT STAY IN SINGAPORE.

16 MAY (TUESDAY): GROUP TO LEAVE FOR KULAI, MALAYSIA, BY ROAD, TO VISIT MALAYSIAN RUBBER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MARDEC) FACTORY. DEPART BY AIR FOR KUALA LUMPUR.

17 MAY - 19 MAY (WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY): GROUP TO ATTEND CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONSULTATIONS IN KUALA LUMPUR ORGANIZED BY UNCTAD IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ANRPC SECRETARIAT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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